AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

PUBLIC NEGLECTS ITS DUTIES WHILE "LONG" ON ITS RIGHTS

New York, Oct. 22.—Those editors and politicians who discuss "the rights of the public" in strike times can read with profit a report on the recent Denver street car strike by three churchmen, who call attention to the public's neglect of its duties:

"It is to be feared that the people of Denver, as is probably true in most cities under like circumstances, for the most part failed to take a broad public view of the tramway situation and of its solution of the strike. Had the people interested themselves to provide such regulation of the street railway system ar would insure its solvency and a living wage to its employes the whole unhappy conflict might have been prevented."

The report is issued by the research department of the federal council of the churches of Christ in America. It is stated that this is the first time that the two great national councils—Catholic and Protestant—have been associated in an enterprise of this kind," and the first time a people of local churchmen representing Protestant, Catholic and Jew, have joined in an investigation of a local industrial disturbance.

WRECK LABOR DEPARTMENT; FORCED ARBITRATION NEXT?

Washington, Oct. 22.—Opposition to any attempt to weaken, destroy, subordinate or amalgamate the department of labor was manifested and voted at a meeting of two score of labor leaders representing national and international unions, held in A. F. of L. headquarters.

Several speakers declared that the committee appointed by President Harding to recommend government departments under consideration for the formation of a department of public welfare, with education, public health and labor to be the three major divisions.

Sixty per cent of the present functions of the department of labor, would be placed in other departments of the new department. The labor division of the new department would be composed of the bureau of labor statistics and the conciliation and employment service, with an additional bureau to be known as "bureau of compulsory investigation of labor disputes affecting public information." The fact that this bureau is to be created discovers the conspiracy which has been in progress since during the year, according to the labor representatives.

Employers who favor autocracy in industry have demanded the destruction of the department of labor and the adoption of a law that will compel employes to work against their will, they said.

Labor representatives show this is in line with the declaration of Attorney General Daugherty at Cincinnati, last August, in which he favored compulsory arbitration of labor disputes, so that "in time "laws can be enacted making such controversies impossible."

President Gompers presided at the meeting of labor representatives and has ordered that a referendum be taken on the matter to the attention of the organized wage earners affiliated with the national and international unions, and to all the people.

After years of agitation by organized labor, a bill creating the department of labor was passed in 1913, in the closing hours of the sixty-second congress. President Wilson approved it. William B. Wilson, former congressman and secretary of the United Mine Workers, as the first secretary of labor. The new cabinet officer found himself handicapped because congress failed to appropriate money for the new department, and a special urgency bill was passed at the special session of the new congress, on May 1, 1913, to pay the actual running expenses of the department.

In urging congress to make suitable appropriations for the new department, the A. F. of L. executive committee made this report to the A. F. of L. convention in 1913:

"The department of labor is the only department of government which deals exclusively with problems of human progress and the relations of man to man, including that of employer and employe. To have it thus handicapped in its initial work retards the progress of the great humanitarian purpose for which it was brought into existence.

"We can not too strongly condemn the stupidity, picayunish policy of congress in dealing with the only department existing that has for its purpose the welfare of the wage workers."

ROADS' BEGGAR POLICY STRIKES SENATE SNAG

Washington, Oct. 22.—The beggar policy of railroads, which are continually asking for financial relief, has struck a snag in the senate.

The roads want the United States treasury to advance to them a fund of been $500,000,000 in payment for government rentals. The roads claim the government more than this amount, but instead of balancing the debt, he will be paid while the government will not be paid for a term of years. The administration favors the plan, and the president has urged congress to improve the war finance corporation to take this action.

Senators have been coming so easy for the roads in their treasury raids that they are not satisfied with the $500,000,000. They now demand that the bill be amended so they can sue the government for millions of dollars damages on the ground that labor was inefficient during the war.

No one accuses the roads or is back of the scheme when it comes to the people's purse, but their latest demand staggers some advocates of the original plan, who are having their troubles interesting senators in the proposition hand-out.

Cool headed friends of the railroad financiers are urging them to be more cautious, or they will lose the main prize.

TIGHT COAL COMBINE.

Perth Amboy, N. J., Oct. 22.—Retail coal dealers of this city held legislative committee that coal prices are fixed and maintained at high levels by the New Jersey Retail Dealers' association. Prospective members of the association must sign an agreement that they will not invade the territory of another or attempt on the same scale of prices. The trade field is restricted to those now established and it is almost impossible for an outsider to break into the coal business here. It was shown that three industrial concerns, employing more than 1,000 workers, supplied nearly all from the mines to these employes. Substantial savings to the workers was lost when retail coal dealers forced the concerns, by intimidation, to abandon this practice.

PROFITEERING IN DOCKS.

New York, Oct. 22.—Astounding profiteering and graft to dock officials has been exposed by the legislative committee that is investigating municipal affairs.

A former dock clerk testified he obtained permits from the dock commission and rented piers for the city. In some instances, committee counsel declared, the clerk and his partner made more than $1,000,000 in the last four years.

WOULD BAR RACE BETS.

Washington, Oct. 22.—The house passed a bill which would prohibit out of the mails to newspapers or other publications printing the odds on contests of speed, strength or skill," abolish horse racing charts printed in many newspapers, and prohibit the distribution of circulars giving the same information.

STONE CUTTERS WIN.

Hamilton, Ontario, Oct. 22.—The Stone Cutters' union has won a five-months strike and wages in the states are advanced from 87½ cents to 90 cents an hour, and working hours cutters will be employed.

RAIL OWNERS BEG TO CONGRESS BUT SWING CLUB OVER LABOR

Chicago, Oct. 22.—The strike order for Oct. 30., issued by the railroad brotherhoods, is not directly caused by another wage cut demand of the railroad owners. This second demand for reductions is the proverbial "last straw on the camel's back."

Ever since the roads were released from government control the owners have called on the public to aid them in lowering wages and relieve working conditions. Along with this campaign, the owners have been whining for an emergency fund for financial relief from the government.

Wages have been reduced 12 1-2 per cent, the national agreement has been abrogated, time and one-half or overtime has been annulled, piece work is permitted, rulings by the United States railroad labor board have been ignored and no attempt has been made to comply with the labor provisions of the Cummins-Esch act, of which the railroads demanded) unless it suits the financiers who control the roads.

The roads are guaranteed 6 per cent interest, not on their investment, but on their valuation, and no provision is made to regulate their expenditures. This permits them to contract for repairs to the private concerns that are controlled by the railroad owners, at the high charges are paid for by the public.

When the Cummins-Esch bill was framed, the public was assured that the millennium in transportation had arrived. The owners' whine for financial relief continued, however, and rates were increased. The prophets of the millennium again trolled as the howls for wage reductions increased.

The railroad executives, pictured as dragged Americans, who reject all attempt to settle the strike by demanding that the government give them $500,000,000.

During the whole period, from the end of government control, these railroads have been fully enfranchised, and whipped: "We are facing bankruptcy."

Organized labor, however, they have assumed a different role. They have been arrogant and unscrupulous, swinging the club of industrial autocracy.

In one case the railroad owners play the part of alms seekers and in the other they imitate the late Czar Nicholas.

During the campaign the "molders of public opinion" have aided the roads in every way possible. News and editorials issued these forces talk about "the rights of the public," but when the time to call, they made no reference to the duties of the public, or to inquire as to whether the railroads might lead to the very situation which now confronts the nation.

GREED'S "FUNNY" MEN TOLD PLAIN TRUTHS

Washington, Oct. 22.—"It is better to, belong to the agricultural bloc than to the blockheads of the senate," said Senator Ashurst in his stinging reply to those senators who have ridiculed the senate nonpartisan agricultural bloc.

The Arizona law marker yanked these would-be funny men up with a rouna turn. He predicted that the federal reserve board "is one that it is learned that 20 senators, equally divided between the two political parties, are going to stand on this floor and see to it that the tillers of the soil shall have justice from this government."

"The agricultural bloc," he said "is determined that the control of Wall street shall no longer control the federal reserve board. "Do I make myself clear?

When the speaker was interrupted by a voice from the floor, questioner:

"When I get through, answer if you can. Join the blockheads where you belong, if you fail to realize that agriculture is to be treated." Later, Senator Ashurst, referring to his questioner, said: "I do not happen to possess his grace, a grace and charm so complete and so effective that in one sentence thing and mean another."

"Mr. President, I admit that I am vehement. Quite true. I am vehement, with 5,000,000 men out of work, with millions of acres of land in the west.

"Why should we sit in these soft seats and pass a little palliative measure now and then that will not be done something.

"There must be no further delay. We must have relief for the agricultural bloc. I repeat, Mr. President, I am speaking for bold and decisive measures; and if the rich folk are to be relieved from just taxation and are to enjoy their unearned increments, we intend to say and to see to it that along with that low ebb tide of the rich, will be at the bottom of the structure of politics, and we, shall at least have a measure of justice.

"Do I make myself clear on that point?"

OLE HANSEN A "DEAD ONE."

Philadelphia, Oct. 22.—Ole Hansen, Seattle's ex-mayor, is a "dead one," according to Richard Spillane, financial writer in the Public Ledger, in a story under the head, "Writing" in his paper, Spillane makes this comment on the western mayor, who like Hansen, is back of the recent "anti-profiteering" stunt during the Seattle strike;

"Ole Hansen, who, as mayor of Seattle, became a national figure for a day and then resigned from office and went on the lecture platform, is a back number. Local people give credit to him for sincerity, but say he was not big enough, even in conditions at the time of the labor trouble in the Seattle territory."

HOW COMPANY UNION WORKS.

Pueblo, Col., Oct. 22.—A wage hearing conducted by the state industrial commission, between the Nuckolls company, meat packers, favor "industrial democracy" known as the company union.

Wages of these workers have been advanced this year, some of the employes are paid as low as $1.75 a day.

The commission was told that the company circulated petitions favoring another wage cut, and all but one employe signed. When asked what became of that employe, the witness replied, "O, he quit."

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR.

Asheville, N. C., Oct. 22.—Although the city has the proportion of unemployed, the Asheville Construction company has employed convicts to work in quarries.

FRENZIED EDITORS AID RAIL MANAGERS

Washington, Oct. 22.—Silent while railroad courts are destroying wages and working conditions, editors of the country are incensed to their private owners, frenzied newspaper editors rush to the senate when workers talk strike.

The editor of the Philadelphia Public Ledger shrieks:

"The cities and the nation do not propose to be held up and that the unions may have their way."

These editors have aided the railroads in looting the United States treasury, in securing a 6 per cent guarantee on the valuation of their property, in refusing to treat with organizations of labor that railroad employes are fit to join, in denying collective bargaining, in discriminating against labor in abolishing extra pay for overtime, in defying orders of the labor board, decisions by the United States railroad labor board.

The editors were silent when the Erie railroad organized a dummy association at Marion, Ohio, and turned over its repair work to this company for the purpose of evading the railroad labor board.

These editors were silent when the railroads imported Japs to destroy railroad wages through the hands of receivers, and in the federal judge, to evade a railroad labor board order that it must comply with the labor laws of the state before it could reduce wages.

These editors have made no criticism of high freight rates that have paralyzed industry and caused untold unemployment and suffering.

These editors have remained silent while the railroads have hacked their employes up against the wall. Instead of a militant fight back, the editors give an imitation of dodging a prize fighter's advance as they howl against labor.

4,931,906 ILLITERATES.

Washington, Oct. 22.—Six per cent of the total population of the United States 10 years old and over was illiterate in 1920, according to the census bureau. This is a slightly smaller percentage than the number of illiterates 10 years ago.

Of the 82,789,315 persons in the country 10 years old and over, 4,931,906 were classed as illiterate, being unable to read or write. The number of illiterates in 1910 was 5,516,925.

The District of Columbia had 10.9 per cent illiterate among its population of 377,295 persons. This is an illiteracy of but 2.5 per cent in the District of Columbia, which is the smallest percentage of any state.

$60,000 DAMAGE VERDICT.

New York, Oct. 22.—A jury has awarded a minister of Christ $60,000 damages against the American Express company. One of the company's automobiles cut off the little girl's hands while she was at play in front of her home. The verdict is said to be the largest ever awarded by a jury in this state for injuries to a child.

TAILORS SIGN CONTRACT.

Chicago, Oct. 22.—Journeymen Tailors' union No. 5 has signed a union-shop contract with employers. The agreement calls for eastern rates, a 44-hour week, satisfactory conditions, with 85 cents an hour as the minimum wage for tailors.

PROFITEER IN PRUNES.

San Francisco, Oct. 22.—Prunes for which the California producer receives 6 and 7 cents a pound have been sold in Chicago for 25 cents, according to Chicago officials who are in the city investigating the cost of food staples.

ARMISTICE DAY DEMONSTRATIONS WILL BE GENERAL

Is Press Policy In Steel Strike To Be Repeated?

Washington, Oct. 22.—Is the steel strike policy of a large portion of the public press to be repeated in the event of a railroad strike?

A press bureau, with headquarters in this city, gives this hint to newspapers on how to handle the strike editorially:

"Both the railroads and the employes have defied the United States railroad labor board, created by congress for the very purpose of avoiding strikes. Where the responsibilities is hard for officials not in daily touch with the situation to decide. The fact is, both sides have conducted a continuous propaganda designed to show that the initiative in ignoring the railroad labor board lies with the other side.

"And while the quarrel has grown more intense, while some of the railroads on the one hand have goaded the employes to strike by declaring they would refuse to deal a body blow to unionism, the employes, on the other hand, have insisted that if they take a cut in wages the rates must come down for freight and passenger traffic.

The press bureau, it will be noted, makes a specific charge against the railroads, and that is that they brutalize it by the claim that employes have defied the labor board by insisting that rates must be reduced if wages are cut. The railroads have not defied the labor board.

But even if they did, how can this be construed as a defiance of the railroad labor board? That board has nothing to do with rates. That is a function of the interstate commerce commission.

The article is a crude attempt to mix the situation in the public mind so that the railroad owners may escape scrutiny.

Capitalistic Speech By Injunction Judge

New York, Oct. 22.—A capitalistic speech, not a judicial decision, is the ultimate analysis of Justice Strong's injunction against striking railroad shopmen, A. F. of L. building trades and labor council.

Justice Strong has issued a pamphlet on the court's decision, which rambles over the universe in its profuse praise of railroad profiteering, especially, are undesirable.

In urging organized labor to discuss this injunction and create a public opinion against it, precedents are used in labor disputes, the central labor body is informed by Strong:

"Both the United States and England, from whose system the American jurisprudence of this country springs, recognize picketing as a necessary function to be organized and properly maintained labor organizations. To declare it unlawful is to fail to provide for a judge on a bench, called upon to interpret the law, to declare picketing is unlawful, the judge clearly exceeds his duty and is prevented from the bench, and is guilty of contempt of the court of appeals of the state of New York and the United States supreme court in failing to follow Truax vs. Pullman, which are binding on him.

"Judge Strong's so-called decision is not a judicial decision, for it does not cite a single case in support of his opinion. It is just judicial decision, but a capitalistic speech from the bench displaying a deep-rooted bias against the great mass of the plain citizens of this country. Such a decision as Judge Strong as unfitted for the judicial position he holds. It is his own indictment."

SALES TAX NOT DEAD.

Washington, Oct. 22.—Advocates of the sales tax are conducting a campaign for the repeal of the law, although little noise is being made. They are worried over the fact that the term "consumers' tax" will become popular. They are calling the sales tax a "producers' tax." This has a soothing sound. Contrary to the belief, big business is not demanding this tax.

Another peculiar situation in this connection is the opposition of big business that the excess profits tax be removed. Organized labor does not attempt to reconcile this position with their claim that they are only interested in the sales tax. They are insisting on the removal of a tax that does not operate until profits become excessive.

REINSTATE PIECE WORK.

Chicago, Oct. 22.—The United States railroad labor board has reinstated piece work on railroads, to the great joy of managers and anti-union manufacturers.

The prohibition against piece work was included in the national agreement against which the rail managers have waged such strong opposition.

The board's ruling has intensified feeling between railroad workers and managers. The latter secured a 12 1-2 per cent wage reduction last July. They are now said to be in additional wage cut be made, which they will pass on to the public in the form of lower freight rates.

Miners' Strike Right Denied by High Court

Denver, Oct. 22.—The state supreme court has upheld the state industrial commission, which ruled that coal miners must observe the "can't-strike" law of this state.

In April last year, the miners notified the commission that they intended to strike unless they sought an injunction, but was defeated in a lower court on the ground that the mining industry is not affected with public interest.

On appeal to the state supreme court, the state ruling was reversed. The miners then petitioned for a rehearing, which has been denied.

FOOD COSTS STAND; HAVE NOT LOWERED

Washington, Oct. 22.—Food prices have been practically stationary from Sept. 15 to October, 1921, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics.

Although the price paid to farmers has been battered down, these reductions are not reflected in the average 23 leading cities of the country which report that the decrease in food prices was throughout the industrial centers of the country. This is but a fraction every dollar spent for every dollar expended for food.

Atlanta, with 2.6 per cent; Jacksonville, with 2.4 per cent; and Savannah, with 2.5 per cent, lead in decreases.

Boston reports 9-10 of 1 per cent decrease; Portland, Me., 1-10 of 1 per cent, and Washington, D. C., 1 per cent.

These figures, covering a period when butter, eggs, hens, fruit and vegetables should be cheapest, are a complete denial of the claim of lower wages advocates that food costs are being reduced.

Cheap Wages in Arkansas Destroys Buying Power

Little Rock, Ark., Oct. 22.—Manufacturers in this state have taken wages down and are bemoaning poor business, while overlooking the factor that they destroyed the purchasing power of the workers.

In its report on wages and employment the Arkansas bureau of labor and statistics says that the average weekly wage in manufacturing was $17.13 per week, with further reductions indicated. No reduction in price of products.

"In flour and meal mills 12-hour labor is paid for $17.15; cotton seed oil mills are paying unskilled labor 12 1-2 to 15 cents per hour, with further reductions indicated. No reduction in price of product."

Following skills report, reduction of wages from 2 to 45 per cent, but business men report business is good. Business men do not seem to realize that homes can not be built on an average wage of $17.13 per week, and in some instances 12 cents an hour.

TEAMSTER'S SHORT SPEECH.

Seattle, Oct. 22.—Harry Dall, secretary of the local Teamsters' union, made one of the shortest trade union speeches on record before 5,000 people who contributed food and funds to miners forced on strike because of wage reductions. The people assembled in a park. And Dall, standing on a wagon, their talks brief. The five-minute rule was observed and he was given the blue ribbon when he said:

"You can't eat my words, but the teamsters have contributed food for the miners and their families as long as they need our help."

Dall then left the platform and went to the miners.

The Seattle federation of labor is organizing a state-wide relief movement for these workers.

EYES CAUSE GREATEST LOSS.

Philadelphia, Oct. 22.—Workmen in this state have lost 552 eyes in accidents since the first of the year, said Harry A. Mackey, chairman of the workmen's compensation board, in a speech in this city. Mackey said that, when the compensation board was created, 3,354 eyes have been lost in industrial accidents, entailing compensation of over $4,000,000.

MINERS CALL MEETING.

Hazelton, Pa., Oct. 22.—Announcement is made that the tri-district convention of the anthracite miners will be held in January next to formulate new wage demands. The Hazelton, Pa., convention city will be announced later.

People Aroused Against Excessive Military Taxation

Washington, Oct. 22.—Plans for Armistice day demonstrations in support of the international movement toward disarmament are maturing rapidly throughout the country.

Practically every large city has already arranged for a mass meeting or a parade or both, and from scores of the smaller cities reports are daily coming to A. F. of L. headquarters showing that the nation is solidly committed to the principle of disarmament by international agreement.

Reports from the following cities indicate the extent of Armistice day demonstrations in every section of the country:

Baltimore—Elaborate plans are under way for a monster mass meeting in one of the largest halls in the east. The labor movement has enlisted the co-operation of 14 civic organizations.

Philadelphia — Labor initiated Armistice day demonstration. Meeting of representatives of labor and 12 civic organizations held in mayor's office. Arrangements made for mass meeting and $1,500 to defray expenses was quickly subscribed.

Harrisburg, Pa.—Central labor union appointed committee to interest other citizens in monster mass meeting.

Rank-and-File Federation of Labor's activity for Armistice day demonstration. Plans for meetings are well under way. Invitations forwarded to 20 civic organizations. Keith's theater offered free of charge to the labor movement and other organizations.

The above reports are indicative of the widespread demand by the people for relief from military taxation, and for the establishment of the basis of contentment and peace. A tremendous amount of literature has been distributed by the trade unions and other organizations on the cost and waste of maintaining the present military establishments. For the first time, the people have been informed as to what drain levies upon their sustenance.

Such figures show that out of every dollar appropriated by congress, 65 cents is used to pay the cost of past wars; 23 cents to provide for future wars; 3 cents for civil departments; 6 cents for public works, and but 1 cent for education and science.

Such figures speak for themselves. They are the reason for the present nation-wide demonstration by citizens for a reduction of disarmament.

LATEST "HAND OUT" TO ROADS WILL GO TO STOCKHOLDERS?

Washington, Oct. 22.—The claim that a proposed half-billion dollar "hand out" to the railroads will create employment was exposed by W. S. Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, at the president's unemployment conference.

The brotherhood official said, in effect, "if you claim this money will be used to purchase railroad equipment, why should it be turned over to stockholders as deferred dividends, which they have agreed that it be loaned with that understanding."

Carter's plan was rejected, because a majority vote was necessary.

Advocates of the "hand-out" are tearing this clear cut "show down" and continue telling the public that the railroads will employ hundreds of thousands of workers will be employed, as the railroads purchase hundreds of millions of dollars worth of equipment.

President Carter showed that the $500,000,000 as provided in the senate bill (No. 2317) will in no way increase the employment of railroad workers. He showed that when railroads want new cars or locomotives, manufacturers increase the capital stock or issues "equipment bonds" for a number of years.

"It has never been the general policy of railroads to use any money affecting their capital in repair cars and locomotives," he said. "The policy has generally been that the money for repairs be taken from operating freight should and will pay the expenses of its upkeep.

"This has resulted in a practice, generally adopted, to not assume the burden of expense necessary to repair cars and locomotives beyond the needs of the railroads.

"The management does not regard it as a dangerous situation to allow a great accumulation of bad orders to exist during a period of depression in business. The reason for this is that as soon as business increases, the railroads, in the interests of the railroad, and thereby using the cars in storage, the number of bad orders will immediately increased and the bad order cars are placed in a serviceable condition as rapidly as the business of the railroad demands."

The brotherhood official dwelt at length on the financial methods of railroads, to support his opinion that if the railroads are loaned half a billion dollars they will probably "follow the past practice in the distribution of any extraordinary chargeable to capital account and pay deferred interest, deferred dividends and other deferred dividends and other deferred obligations."

Carter's plan was rejected, but the speaker quoted from a letter addressed by the president of a certain railroad to the stockholders regarding the company's settlement with the government for the payment of $3,000,000 cash. The president said that the board of directors had decided to pay the interest out of the earnings of 1918 and 1919. The figures show that $1,754,160 of the $3,000,000 payment has been used for dividends.

Financing Charges Prohibit Building

Cleveland, Oct. 22.—Wage reductions have not revived the building industry, as predicted, and these prophets realize they must make good if they are to be believed in the future.

One local newspaper is discussing the financing of mortgages and has a subject that only trade unionists will know to be correct. Here is a part of the report:

"For example, before the work of construction has begun the owners of an apartment house are required to pay for the $1,250,000 invested, an interest rate of 7 per cent, and a bond premium of 10 per cent, which is added to the principal of 10 per cent, making a total financing charge of 18½ per cent.

"The financing charge of a suburban home of $250,000 at the same structure was $75,000. This is a charge of 30 per cent. It is doubtful whether the margins required by the architect, the contractor and by all of the building trades industries involved aggravated a sum equivalent to these financing charges."

DEFEAT SKY SHOOTERS.

San Jose, Cal., Oct. 22.—The state federation of labor convention refused to appoint a committee to investigate the labor banking movement that styles itself "industrial democracy."

The movement has the usual mortgage on every alluring word, which is used to fool the people, and sky shooters can invent. The convention refused to be swayed, however, and will organize during the life of this latest world saver was playing to the tune of anti-unionists, as usual.

The sky shooters nominated a candidate for president, and he received 7,000 out of the 47,000 votes cast.

STRIKEBREAKER NABBED.

Richmond, Cal., Oct. 22.—J. C. Emerson, a strikebreaker for a company whose employes are on strike, has been arrested on the charge of criminal syndicalism. Mr. Emerson was arrested in 1914 with the I. W. W. and Mooney dynamite, at that time he was charged with attempting to discredit trade unionism. The case was mysteriously dropped.

Organized workers are asking how the company employed a man with such a record for the responsible position of strikebreaker.

HOLD UNION SHOP.

Chicago, Oct. 22.—Organized labor has won a victory. It has signed a union shop agreement with the local unit of the national association of broom manufacturers. When the old contract expired last September, the employers said they would not recognize the union, that they must have a non-union shop, and wage reductions from 25 to 40 per cent.

The agreement calls for a union shop, the eight-hour day and wage reductions of 10 per cent.

Mortgage Sharks Hold Up Building

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MOVING BOATS CAN BE HIT.

Washington, Oct. 22.—In a speech in this city, Brig. Gen. Harry, assistant chief of the army air service, said he was sure he could move boats that to hit boats at anchor. He said planes can fly at the same rate of speed as the boats they attack and thus, by merely dropping the bombs at the correct angle insure their making a hit.

General Mitchell's statement is in direct contradiction to naval officials that the recent test of the battleship Ostfriesland, a German warvessel was sunk by air bombs, is not conclusive evidence as to the value of air bombs against a ship that was anchored. General Mitchell insists that air planes make the battle ship obsolete.

FREEDOM IN WEST VIRGINIA.

Charleston, W. Va., Oct. 22.—West Virginia has three branches of government, executive, headed by W. G. Snyder, editor of the West Virginia Mine Worker.

"In McDowell county it is the Baldwin-Felts crowd; in Logan county it is the 'deputy sheriff' law, and in Mingo county it is the socialled 'law and order' outfit; all three systems are under the control of the coal masters. The only difference is that in Logan and McDowell the coal kings pay the bill direct, while in Mingo they are protected direct from the taxpayers of the state."

MORE PHILANTHROPY DUE.

New York, Oct. 22.—Philanthropy is about due for some advertising. The business of all concerns of the country is falling off.

LOW WAGES INTENSIFY INDUSTRIAL DEPRESSION

Washington, Oct. 22.—Promising later to make an analysis of the national unemployment conference, President Gompers issued a statement upon the constructive work of the conference. He says every destructive measure proposed by the conference was defeated, was defeated.

Recommendations of the minority headed by the A. F. of L. executive in the committee of manufactures, went through the shape of the majority recommendations and closed with the following statement signed by President Gompers, Mrs. Sara Conboy, secretary-treasurer of the United Textile Workers, and Roy Dickinson, associate editor of Printer's Ink:

"We deem it necessary at the outset to emphasize more fully the importance of the fact that must result from any further application of a low wage policy. Industry was devoted to the cause of labor.

Industry is based upon the purchasing power of the masses. The prosperity and joy of our people are wage earners, and ability to purchase commodities depends upon their wages. Mistaken reasoning has never exhibited itself more markedly or more crudely than in the declaration that reduction of wages would induce a period of prosperity. The industries that today are in the most depressed condition are those that are affected to the highest degree by reduced buying power of the people. As a proper course in relation to this particular phase of the unemployment problem we submit to the conference the following recommendations:

"1. There must be adopted no policy of wage reduction. On the contrary, there must be a policy calling for the highest possible rate of wages in every industry in terms of industrial well-being this means the adoption of a policy of placing in the hands of all of the people the highest average of buying power in order that there may be the greatest possible consumption of commodities and the greatest consequent demand for the reproduction of commodities. Reduction of buying power stops purchasing power, paralyzes industry and manufacturing and creates unemployment.

"2. There should be adopted as a permanent policy everywhere practicable the elimination of the element of profiteering, place commodities upon the market through the most economical cost per unit and enable manufacturers to base unit costs upon the largest possible production and the productive capacity of plants. Management is having assumed the responsibilities which go with its functions has no moral right to tax the public for its inefficiency by costs fixed upon a basis of part time production.

"There has been placed before this committee by the representatives of the fact that these commercial lines of endeavor in which there is true profiteering and selling efficiency is the greatest, but that they will be the greatest sufferers from the evil practices. We therefore submit these two recommendations with a third, which we believe is vital to any permanent relief from the evil practices complained against. We see in this proposal a constructive and logical substitute for state regulation or enforced publicity proposals. Let there be made available through responsible agencies voluntarily, trustworthy information on production costs showing the cumulative influence of mergers and the overcrowding of commission expenses."